

Council on Postsecondary Education  
Committee on Equal Opportunities  
October 15, 2001

## Implementing the Partnership Agreement - Discussions with the Presidents of Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, and the University of Kentucky

Three institutions, Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, and the University of Kentucky, have named new presidents since the Committee on Equal Opportunities completed its most recent visits to talk about institutional strategies to achieve the commitments of *The 1997-2002 Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities* and *The Partnership Agreement* with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

In May of 1999, the Commonwealth and the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, entered into a partnership for the purpose of improving the educational opportunities for African Americans in Kentucky's public postsecondary education institutions. Part III of the agreement sets forth the commitments that will bring Kentucky into full compliance with Title VI and the Fordice standards. The duration of the agreement is through December 31, 2002. The agreement may be extended, as necessary, for completion of certain items committed to in the agreement.

The CEO and the OCR are required to complete another round of visits in calendar year 2002 to review the progress of institutions toward completing the commitments set forth in the agreement. The new presidents have varying degrees of familiarity with the commitments of the agreement and *The Kentucky Plan*. The presidents were invited to the CEO meeting to talk about their understanding of and approach to fulfilling the requirements of the agreement and *The Kentucky Plan*.

Eastern Kentucky University -- Dr. Joanne Glasser. President Glasser comes to the university from the Maryland system of postsecondary education. She comes to EKV at a time when the institution is making a number of significant changes that may impact its success in achieving the enrollment and retention commitments in the agreement and in *The Kentucky Plan*.

Murray State University -- Dr. F. King Alexander. President Alexander comes to Murray from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Alexander is not aware of any significant changes at Murray at this time.

University of Kentucky -- Dr. Lee T. Todd, Jr. President Todd comes to UK from the private sector and is a past member of the Council on Postsecondary Education. Dr.

Todd has created several major committees to look at a number of issues that may impact the commitments in the agreement and *The Kentucky Plan*.

Each president has been asked to provide a brief summary of any significant changes in their institution's approach to implementing the commitments of the agreement with OCR or *The Kentucky Plan* and to discuss briefly their philosophy toward equal educational and employment opportunities for African Americans.

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